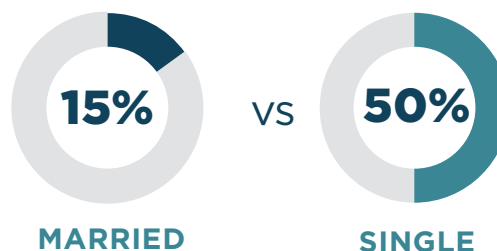
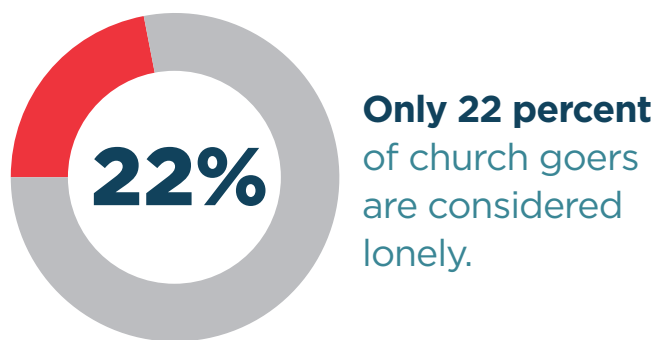


LONELINESS AMONG CHURCH GOERS



Single church goers are more than 3 times as likely to be considered lonely than their married counterparts. **More so than widows, loneliness levels are higher among the never married between ages 30-39 years old.**

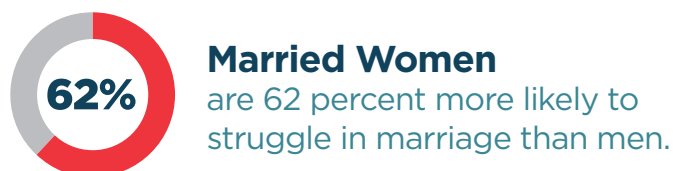
Loneliness has been defined by experts in psychology as a state of mind with the perception of being alone and isolated.² Being lonely has been found to have the same public health effect as smoking 15 cigarettes per day.³ In our survey, just 22 percent of church goers are considered lonely, which is a much lower level of loneliness than the general population. But single church goers are over 3 times more likely to be considered lonely than their married church going counterparts. Just 15 percent of married people in church are considered lonely while more than 50 percent of all singles are considered lonely with the higher loneliness reported not among widows, but among never-married men and women ages 30-39.

Our survey also found that roughly 1 in 5 married church goers struggle in their marriage. The gap in relationship satisfaction between married men and women is substantial as women are 62 percent more likely to

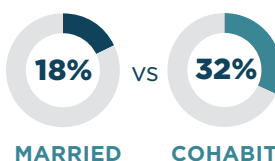
report struggling than married men. When compared to the married, cohabiting church goers were substantially more likely to report struggling in their relationship. Cohabiting women were 76 percent more likely to struggle than married women and 85 percent more likely to struggle than a cohabiting man. Both cohabiting men and women were far more likely to report being lonely than married men and women.

To evangelize fruitfully in the twenty-first century, we must reverse the declining number of marriages, improve marital health, and increase the effectiveness of fathers in those marriages. By addressing these three issues, we can spark a sustained revival in Christian faith and active church attendance. The link between marriage and faith is clear, yet 85 percent of all churches in the United States report spending \$0.00 annually on marriage and relationship ministry.⁴

THE STATE OF CHRISTIAN RELATIONSHIPS



Cohabitors Far More Likely to Struggle than the Married



While 18 percent of married people report struggling, **cohabitators are 78 percent more likely to report struggling in their relationship.**

